

The DX Bulletin

• America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication •

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PROPAGATION: Feb 19, 20, Low Normal; Feb 21, Below Normal; Feb 22, High/Low Normal; Feb 23, 24, Disturbed; Feb 25, 26, Low Normal; Feb 27, High Normal; Feb 28, High/Above Normal; Mar 1-3, Above Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Flux (85)	Date	Flux	A	K
-----1986-----								
184	n/a	146	115	73	2/7	95	38	3
186	n/a	137	117	72	2/8	98	110	5
n/a	n/a	125	131	75	2/9	95	65	9
n/a	n/a	116	144	75	2/10	99	7	3
n/a	n/a	110	147	76	2/11	98	14	2
n/a	n/a	103	147	75	2/12	91	15	3
n/a	n/a	98	141	74	2/13	89	15	3

SOLAR STORM KILLS HF BANDS

"VERY VISIBLE AURORA Saturday evening (Feb 8). Everything wiped out on the bands except good aurora propagation in the States as far west as Wyoming on 6 Meters. The aurora covered about 90 per cent of the sky, with good red color and traces of green. Stable display, not much flickering." - W1CYB, New Hampshire.

"MUCH SOLAR ACTIVITY reported (the week of Feb 2-9). The proton event Feb 6 and major flare Feb 7 kicked off a major storm; very, very disturbed conditions, with "A" values of 236 and K values of 8 for over 12 hours. The highest I've observed in 25 years of watching." - KH6BZF Reports.

"FEBRUARY 8TH will surely go down in history as one of the greatest auroras ever. Aurora DX records apparently fell on all bands in North America." - W1JR.

It was not exactly the weekend to try out a brand-new HF rig, as your editor tried to do! The Associated Press even got into the act, moving the following on its wires to newspapers and other media:

"BOULDER, COLO - The biggest geomagnetic storm since 1976 is expected to end by Tuesday (Feb 10) or Wednesday after disrupting communications across much of the United States, a federal forecaster says.

"The storm began subsiding Sunday, said Joe Kunches, duty forecaster at the Space Environment Services Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"In a geomagnetic storm, a surge of energy from the sun enters the Earth's magnetic field and causes electrical interferences with communications and aircraft navigation. The storm also can cause satellites to stray from their orbits."

No kidding.

The couple of days before the storm were something, though. As Tilton/W1AW said, "Suddenly the amateur bands sounded like 1983 again. 14 MHz, which had been going dead soon after local sunset, became almost a 24-hour DX band again. 21 and 24 MHz did almost as well, and 28 MHz, long almost totally quiet, was running wild again.

"During Saturday night there was an aurora of such intensity that even 432 MHz DX was workable on SSB, as well as CW. K1TOL in Maine was heard on 50 MHz in Sweden by SM6PU, and the British 50 MHz beacon GB3SIX was heard by K1JRW in Massachusetts. The 50 MHz band was open to South America for hours at a time."

HAM RADIO magazine carried, in the July 1985 issue, a compilation by W1JR of VHF/UHF records. Included were a separate list for North America only and, where possible, records by propagation modes. In December, the list was updated, again in Ham Radio.

As a result of the Feb 8 aurora, claims are now made by KA1ZE/WBODRL of 1348 miles on 2 Meters, and by W3IY/4-WBODRL of 1093 miles on 220 MHz (although the record actually still stands at 1145 miles, W3IY/4-WBODRL in July 1982).

On 432 MHz, W3IY/4 and WB5LUA hooked up for a record contact of 1181 miles. W1JR continues:

"So there you have it in a nutshell. I am soliciting your help in authenticating any new aurora DX records. Remember that VHF/UHF records are often broken by as little as one mile, so the best accuracy is needed to be fair."

• YASME REPORT - A25/W6KG with W6QL made 6500 contacts in three weeks, assisted by Mac, A24KM and Gerald, A22TJ. The Colvins lived in a motel which was in the general area where a raid was made a few months ago by South African army troops. About 15 people were killed in those raids. The Colvins are now signing Z2/W6QL from Zimbabwe, and they plan to follow that with an operation from either Zambia or Malawi.

160 METERS

As you know, ARRL's Board has recommended a band plan for 1.8 MHz (TDXB Issue 322). They did not, however, vote to petition the FCC for a rules change, nor did they deal with the "DX Window" at 1825-1830. One very active operator notes that during the last couple of 160 Meter DX contests, only a handful of DX stations operated split, the mode which used to be almost 100 per cent used for working DX on 160.

There was a period, a few years ago, when the move toward "simplex" on 160 could be blamed on a new generation of transceivers which had only RIT, at best. Now, however, almost all radios have dual VFOs, so there is little excuse for not going back to split frequency work.

The same operator also belies the dirty signals on the bands; TS930 and TS940 rigs are, he claims, among the worst offenders, having excessive phase noise. So, although there are many more hams on the band, and more DXCC countries to be worked, the band is sounding more and more like the other HF bands. Separating the bands, per the ARRL recommendation, will be one step in the right direction, but it looks like the DX Window is gone forever, unless peer pressure forces Ws and VEs out of it. We are not optimistic.

CONTRIBUTORS

KAIBU, K1KTB, W1CYB, KA1XN, K4BAI, KAIBUY, KD7SO, W8BZRL, W8CT, KB8KW, K6IR, K3RR, K0BJ, K1MEM, DK1RV, KQ2M, KT1N, W2QJT, K1CLN, WA1WTP, W4VQ, W1JR, the Associated Press.

NEW ZEALAND

"I just have to reply to your coverage of the NZART paper in TDXB Issue 319. My wife and I just returned from a trip to Tahiti, Australia and New Zealand. I hadn't heard of the NZART paper until reading it in TDXB.

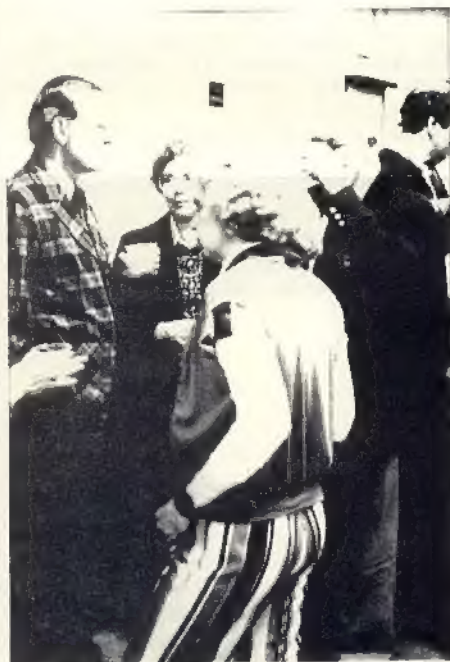
"Your 'rough and ready' impression fits the Australians, but not so the Kiwis (New Zealanders). They are indeed apologists for a number of things, including being against themselves in areas where they've shown good progress.

"It was hard for us to put a handle on their basic political view. They live very conservatively, even the wealthy folks, but are oriented toward high amounts of bureaucracy. As a rule, Kiwis HATE nuclear anything, LOVE Greenpeace and the Sierra Club, and go on strike frequently.

"They stand up for what they believe in, to their financial detriment, and for this I respect them. What I don't respect is their judgement, and I hope that my American upbringing hasn't colored me so much in the other direction that that's the reason I fail to see the logic in their thinking.

"As far as the NZART paper is concerned, I think your editorial reply sums it up, in paragraph three; what they've said is at best exaggeration, in my view, and, even if it wasn't, do they think that the DXCC award is the driving force behind DXpeditions?

"Maybe, when they find that their DX paper falls on deaf ears, NZART will propose making list-taking by lottery mandatory - that would be in their nature!" - K0BJ.



(From left): W4BFR, with N4IA and wife. Martha Henson, WN4FVU, in foreground.



Lee Sheritan, W6OKX (left), and Yuri Blonovich, VE3BMV.



(From left): Carl Henson, WB4ZNH; WD4FBA; K3PPY and wife; TA2C; and WA4HNL.

Photos taken at the January banquet of the Southeastern DX Club, courtesy of Carol, W14K.

160 METERS

4X4NJ 1832 0355 7 MA
EA8QO 1833 2300 6 MA
H44IA 1909 1310 2 CO
HK0BKX 1833 0350 7 MA
HK0BKX 1832 1022 1 GA

80 METERS

3D2DM 3792 1340 2 CO
3D2DM 3795 1320 2 WY
5N/JG1FVZ 3799 2340 7 NH
8P9AY 3800 0440 8 MA
A9KF 3783 0205 4 CO
C310F 3793 0004 5 NH
CO2AK 3794 0304 26 ME
CU2AK 3800 0605 7 MA
CX6CW 3505 0112 2 WY
DU7RLC 3790 1401 3 WY
EA6NB 3792 0635 7 MA
EA9RM 3792 0125 5 CO
H44IA 3795 1425 8 CO
H44IA 3800 1425 2 CO
HP3FL 3792 0100 5 NH
JD1/JH5EES 3795 1410 8 CO
JY9RL 3790 0025 7 MA
TZ6WC 3787 0133 4 NH
VP5DC 3800 1016 7 ME
XX9CT 3792 1430 8 CO
(MACAO)
YB0WR 3795 1400 3 WY
YC8VCE 3795 1346 1 WY
YK/OE5JTL 3790 0211 8 MA
ZB2FK 3794 0218 6 ME
ZS6KT 3504 0317 2 MD

40 METERS

3B8CF 7005 0246 7 WY
3B8CF 7006 0245 7 MA
4K1J 7003 0335 28 CO
4K1J 7006 0300 4 MI
4K1J 7007 0835 7 MA
(ANTARCTICA)

4U1UN 7008 1200 8 MA
5N0/JG1FVZ 7004 0114 4 MI
5V7AS 7003 0230 2 PA
5V7AS 7005 0122 5 WY
5V7AS 7006 0200 4 MI
5V7AS 7009 2324 2 MD
6T1YP 7008 0140 3 OR
(SUDAN)

A25/W6KG 7002 0430 2 PA
BY5RA 7009 1205 6 OR
CT3/W2ZZ 7026 0925 1 GA
DU7JG 7011 1427 6 OR
EA8QO 7025 0844 1 GA
F08JP 7009 1615 3 OR
H44IA 7004 1405 8 CO
H44IA 7004 1200 6 OR
H44IA 7005 1224 6 WY
J88AH 7003 0050 4 CO
KX6DS 7005 0915 7 MA
OY7ML 7027 0927 1 GA
P4/PA0FM 7010 0135 5 WY
P4/PA0FM 7005 2350 2 CO
UA6AHN 7008 1425 6 OR
UL7JEG 7005 0150 3 OR
VK9LM 7011 1305 4 OR
YB2BNJ 7006 2330 5 PA
YC8VCE 7010 1400 3 OR
ZS1HV 7004 0110 2 WY
ZS6JF 7004 0200 3 OR
ZS6JF 7005 0215 3 WY

20 METERS

3D6AJ 14196 1937 2 WY
5N0/YU3KI 14006 2033 7MI
5NOELT 14001 2135 1 PA
5V7AS 14010 2130 1 PA
5V7AS 14183 1810 3 PA
5X5GK 14183 1830 3 PA
5X5GK 14183 1817 11 PA
7X2LS 14183 1810 6 PA
A4XKJ 14181 1335 3 MD
A71BJ 14208 1317 4 MD
A92EM 14173 1401 2 MD
AZ1A 14224 0137 7 WY

AZ1A 14225 0120 7 PA
(SO ORKNEYS)
BY5RF 14229 0220 6 WY
C53EK 14170 2245 2 MD
C53EK 14170 2300 2 WY
C53EK 14170 2255 2 OR
C53EK 14228 0000 6 ME
CE9AM 14210 2306 2 MD
CE9AM 14210 2340 2 WY
(SO SHETLANDS)
CT3/W2ZZ 14026 1300 2 GA
CU3AA 14045 1905 3 OR
D68AM 14197 2157 5 PA
EA6/G6ZY 14025 1225 5 PA
EA8QO 14032 1346 1 GA
EK0DR 14022 1915 3 OR
(ORL 98)
EL2/W8DEP 14197 2346 5 ME
EL2FM 14229 2242 2 MD
EL80 14219 2113 3 MD
FK8EJ 14035 2040 1 PA
(LONG PATH)
FR4DN 14008 1750 8 PA
HC8RS 14018 1525 9 PA
HK0BKX 14172 2309 2 WY
J2LU 14022 1413 2 GA
KC4AAA 14323 0319 2 MD
OD5RA 14183 1830 4 PA
RZ1OWA 14007 2042 6 MI
(F.J.L.)
S79CW 14183 1736 3 MD
TALE 14172 1353 2 MD
TF2TG 14162 1545 2 MD
TR8DR 14210 2100 1 PA
TR8LD 14187 2043 8 NH
TU4BR 14185 2248 5 PA
TU4BR 14227 2043 2 MD
UV100 14009 1920 2 PA
UV100 14025 2200 5 PA
UW0CN 14015 0057 4 MI
V1DO 14004 1523 2 WY
VK9ND 14227 0321 7 MD
VR6ID 14228 0316 7 MD
VU2DDT 14188 1328 3 MD
VU2MAC 14183 1826 12 PA

YB3ON 14008 0050 7 MI
Z2/W6QL 14183 1830 12 PA
ZB2HT 14183 1830 3 PA
ZD7XY 14200 0022 6 ME

15 METERS

3D6BW 21280 1954 1 PA
5H3HM 21280 1500 1 MD
5N9GM 21240 1611 1 MD
6W1JN 21254 1520 8 PA
6W1JN 21275 1438 2 MD
6W1JN 21320 1425 1 MD
CE0FFD 21009 1650 8 PA
CN2AQ 21219 1508 7 MA
CN8EL 21231 1543 2 MD
CT3/W2ZZ 21027 1400 2 GA
CT3BM 21218 1507 1 MD
CX5RV 21028 1800 2 GA
VQ9RB 21026 1350 6 MA
Z21EI 21280 1431 2 MD

KEY TO BANDPASS:
Callsign;
Frequency;
UTC;
day of month;
state.

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REPORT FORMS AND
ENVELOPES; mail
them to TDXB
anytime, or phone:

203-742-7124

(24 hours).

* DK1RV WRITES that he logged the following in 1985 (all of these were in the TDXB Top 73 Needed): XU1SS, DJ9ON/S9, various BYs, TN8EE, HZ1TA/60, 5X5GK, Y1BGD, VK0CC (Heard), FTBXB, 5R8AL, ZL9AA, VK0GC, PA0GMM/FH, various 9M6, VK9ZB, PY1VOY/Trindade, various D68, various UG6, JH5EES/JD1 Minami Torishima, various TZ, various TA, VK9 Christmas, 3C1BC, JD1 Ogasawara, BV2B, T31AT, XX9 Macao, KC6 West Carolines, J5UAG, TJ1CW, some 5Vs, XF4MDX, and 9U5JB. Add these to the "garden varieties" and Hans figures you could have worked as many as 273 DXCC countries in 1985.



NEW OFFICERS of the Western Pennsylvania DX Association are (back row) KJ3Q, KC3MR, WA3CGE, and (front row) KX2J and AD8J. (AD8J photo).

CALENDAR

ISSUE 324

AFRICA	W6KG/W6QL at 22/W6QL; 7Q and 9J next.	OGASAWARA -JD	JH5EES there on-and-off; no reports
AFRICA	W4LZZ now; TZ, 5T, 3X, 6W1; Issue 323		
ANTARCTICA	3Y9WT there now; I317		
ARMADILLO RUN	In May and July; I321. More info K5RC.	REUNION	Rumored FR/DF5IW now to Mar 4
ARUBA-P4	A new DXCC country beginning Jan 1; by K9VV group (P40M) ended 2/20 PA0VDV will try in Feb for P4	SAO TOME-S9	S92LB on 14.183 2030-2330Z4 his QSLs are good for DXCC
		SO GEORGIA	VP8BFC rumored; VP8LB there(?)
BAHAMAS -C6A	K0GVB/C6A now to Mar 1	SO ORKNEYS	AZ1A on now, 75 SSB and 20 RTTY
		SO SHETLANDS	ZX0ECF reported in Europe
CAMEROON-TJ	TJ1CH try 14.183 at 2000Z	SOLOMONS-H44	H44IA reportedly leaves this month
CAMBODIA-XU	XU1SS in JA, Europe, 0900Z	ST VINCENT -J88	By K6HCV rumored starting Feb 10
CANTON-KH1	KS6DV/KH1 rumored there now	SUDAN-ST	6T2MG and 6T1YP active
CAYMANS-ZF	ZF2HI for ARRL Phone; I319	SVALBARD-JW	JW5VAA, JW5E, JW0A on; I310
CHAGOS	VQ9LD try 7005/1300Z long path VQ9LM by W4QM to mid-Feb	TOKELAUS-ZK3	ZK3RW by ZL1AMO in March; I314
CHINA-BY	BY1QH, BY1SK active 20 SSB	TONGA-A35	A35WZ by NC7K starts Feb 13; I319
CURACAO-PJ	PJ9J by W1BIH for ARRL Contests	TROMELIN	FR7AI soon, until first of March
CYPRUS BASES	ZC4HMS, ZC4ESB active; ZC4MR on with W7PHO, 14.225 at 1600Z ZC4NR now on 75 SSB	TURKS -VP5	By N6EK FEB 21-MAR 4; I321; BY KC2RS FEB 13-MAR 10; I321
		W CAROLINES	By KZ5M in Feb; I323
E CAROLINES -KC6	KC6JC back on Ponape, 20/40 M. by KZ5M in Feb; Issue 320, 323	160 METER NET	With 4X4NJ, 1400Z, Saturday, 14.337 Info 1900-2000 KHz, I310
FALKLANDS -VP8	VP8BGO, VP8WTW active		
F DE NORONHA	PY7PO/PY0 Feb 15-22, CW and SSB		
FR JOSEF LAND	UV100, UA10T very active; Issue 319		
GRENADA-J3	J34Z Feb 13-Mar 5; K4LTA group		
GUINEA-BISSAU-J5	J5UAG active; no recent reports 1/86		
IVORY COAST-TU	K1CTK likes 14.183 net at 1900Z		
KERMADEC-ZM8	ZL80Y staying until Aug or Sept		
LEBANON-OD	EI9FG/OD5 there several months		
LORD HOWE-VK9	VK9NH by DJ5CQ ends soon; I322 QSL to home address		
MADEIRA -CT3	W2ZZ/CT3 there now; I320		
MALAGASY-5R	5R8AL try 20, 40 Meters SSB try Fri, 21.330, 16-1700Z		
MAURITANIA	5T5SR on 15, 20 SSB and CW; QSL N4GND		
MONGOLIA-JT	JT0XC (OK1XC) on now, low bands		
MONTSERRAT-VP2M	K1LLN/VP2M Feb 24-Mar 1		

CONTESTS

CQ 160 SSB FEB 21-23
ARRL DX PHONE MAR 1/2
BERMUDA CONTEST MAR 15/16
CQ WPX SSB MAR 29/30
NA QSO PARTY CW APR 12/13
NA QSO PARTY PHONE APR 19/20
ARMADILLO RUN SSB MAY 3/4
CQ WPX CW MAY 24/25

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